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POTATOES & SWEETPOTATOES

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ESTIMATED POTATO STOCKS

POTATO STOCKS UP 6 PERCENT

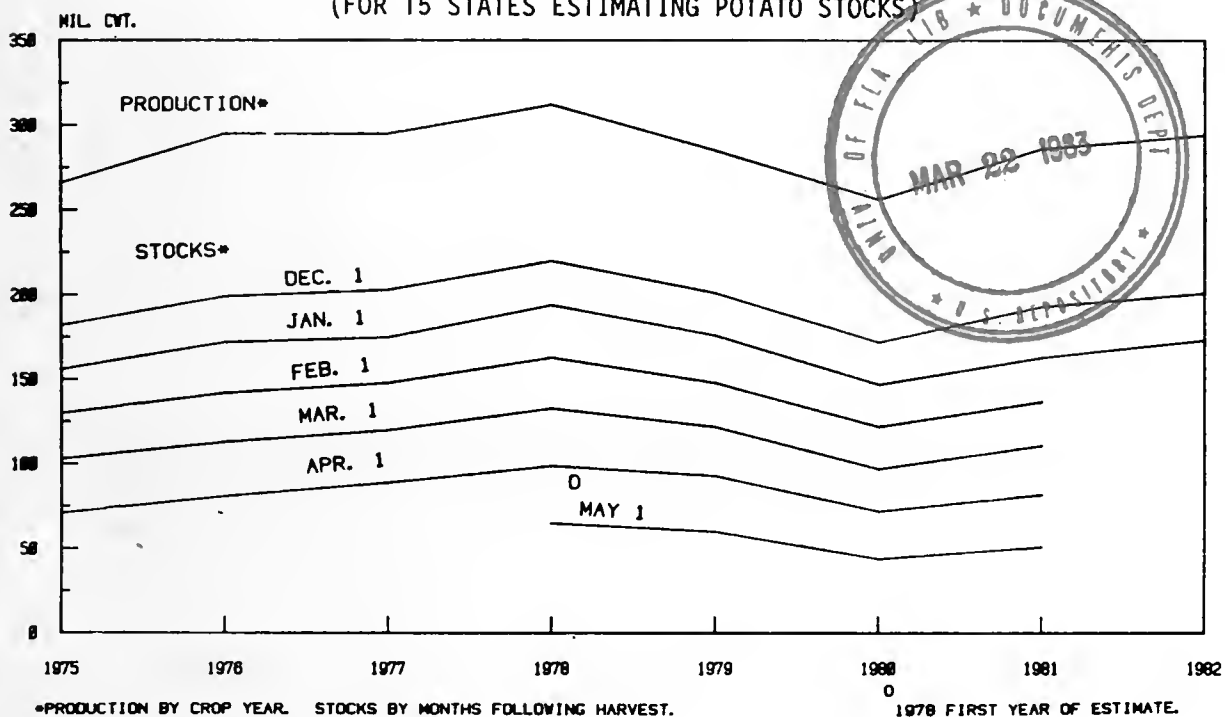
January 1, 1983 potato stocks are estimated at 174 million cwt (7.87 million metric tons) for the 15 major fall producing States. This is up 6 percent from last January and 18 percent above two years ago. The January 1 stocks accounted for 59 percent of production in these 15 States compared with 57 percent a year ago. Of the total stocks in the 11 objective yield States, 74 percent are russets, 23 percent whites and 3 percent reds.

In the three Eastern States, estimated holdings totaled 26.9 million cwt, 9 percent above a year ago and 20 percent above two years ago. Maine storage totaled 18.3 million cwt, a gain of 2 percent from last January and 12 percent above two years ago. New York and Pennsylvania stocks are up 24 percent and 39 percent, respectively, from last year.

(Comments continued on page 4)

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS

(FOR 15 STATES ESTIMATING POTATO STOCKS)



NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including shrinkage and waste and other losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall potatoes for all purposes generally account for about 90 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage and loss and home use account for the remaining 10 percent.

TABLE 1. FALL POTATOES: DECEMBER 1, JANUARY 1, FEBRUARY 1, MARCH 1, APRIL 1, AND MAY 1 TOTAL STOCKS, AND COMPARABLE PRODUCTION FOR 15 STATES ESTIMATING POTATO STOCKS

CROP YEAR	PRODUCTION	DEC 1	JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	MAY 1
1,000 CWT							
1972	242,390	155,190	132,050	105,690	82,510	57,860	
1973	247,686	154,890	131,600	105,360	80,460	55,465	
1974	278,679	183,850	160,100	131,480	102,963	75,217	
1975	266,422	181,720	156,220	129,710	102,850	70,970	
1976	294,978	198,630	172,230	142,030	112,830	81,130	
1977	295,421	202,550	175,300	147,930	119,850	88,680	
1978	311,981	219,850	193,520	162,980	132,570	99,250	64,830
1979	285,060	200,820	176,020	147,910	121,720	92,550	59,535
1980	255,691	171,730	146,610	121,565	97,280	72,460	44,446
1981	286,245	192,810	163,180	137,120	111,280	81,870	50,660
1982	294,082	201,775	173,500				

TABLE 2. POTATOES USED FOR PROCESSING 1/, EIGHT STATES, 1982 AND 1983 CROPS

STATE	STORAGE SEASON	TO DEC 1	TO JAN 1	TO FEB 1	TO MAR 1	TO APR 1	TO MAY 1	ENTIRE SEASON
IDAHO AND MALHEUR CO., OREG	1981-82 1982-83	16,720 14,330	21,450 18,645	26,000	31,205	36,840	42,270	56,585
MAINE 2/	1981-82 1982-83	2,145 2,075	2,715 2,800	3,450	4,135	5,195	5,975	7,325
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1981-82 1982-83	17,730 16,840	21,255 20,130	24,940	29,175	33,855	38,095	47,325
OTHER STATES 3/	1981-82 1982-83	5,088 5,651	6,329 7,135	7,743	9,385	11,111	12,750	15,769
TOTAL	1981-82 1982-83	41,683 38,896	51,749 48,710	62,133	73,900	87,001	99,090	127,004

1/ TOTAL QUANTITY RECEIVED AND USED FOR PROCESSING REGARDLESS OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE POTATOES WERE PRODUCED. DOES NOT INCLUDE QUANTITIES USED FOR POTATO CHIPS IN MAINE, MICH, MINN, N DAK OR WIS.

2/ INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY. 3/ MICH, MINN, N DAK AND WIS.

TABLE 3. POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND TOTAL STOCKS OF FALL POTATOES HELD BY GROWERS, PROCESSORS, AND LOCAL DEALERS ON JANUARY 1, 1982 AND JANUARY 1, 1983

STATE	CROP OF 1981			CROP OF 1982		
	: JAN 1 STOCKS:			: JAN 1 STOCKS:		
	: PRODUCTION	: TOTAL STOCKS:	: AS % OF	: PRODUCTION	: TOTAL STOCKS:	: AS % OF
	: : JAN 1, 1982	: PRODUCTION :		: : JAN 1, 1983	: PRODUCTION	
	1,000 CWT	PERCENT		1,000 CWT	PERCENT	
CALIF	6,919	3,900	56	7,585	4,200	55
COLO	11,600	7,100	61	12,600	7,550	60
IDAHO	84,540	55,000	65	89,890	59,000	66
MAINE	26,520	18,000	68	26,500	18,300	69
MICH	7,050	3,900	55	8,085	4,900	61
MINN	13,300	8,100	61	11,520	8,100	70
MONT	1,739	1,630	94	1,924	1,780	93
NEBR	2,252	1,600	71	2,147	1,450	68
N Y - L I	5,365	1,250	23	4,995	1,700	34
- UPSTATE	6,875	2,550	37	7,020	3,000	43
N DAK	20,125	11,400	57	17,250	11,000	64
OHIO	1,890	350	19	2,328	320	14
OREG	21,710	12,700	58	21,105	13,200	63
PA	5,250	2,800	53	5,758	3,900	68
WASH	52,920	25,100	47	52,800	25,700	49
WIS	18,190	7,800	43	22,575	9,400	42
15 STATE TOTAL	286,245	163,180	57	294,082	173,500	59

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the January 1, 1983 potato stocks estimates, the "Root Mean Square Error", a statistical measure based on past performance, has been calculated. This is computed by expressing the deviations between the January 1 preliminary estimate and the final estimate as a percent of the final estimate and averaging the squared percentage deviations for the 1963-82 twenty-year period. The square root of this average becomes statistically the "Root Mean Square Error". Probability statements can be made concerning expected errors in the current preliminary estimate relative to the final end of season estimate, assuming that factors affecting this year's estimate are not different from those influencing recent years's preliminary estimate.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the January 1, 1983 potato stocks estimate is 2.4 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 174 million hundredweight will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.4 percent or approximately 4.16 million hundredweight. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.1 percent or approximately 7.11 million hundredweight.

During the past 10 years, the difference between the January 1 preliminary and final estimate averaged 3.57 million hundredweight. The largest deviation was 5.94 and the smallest was 1.23 million hundredweight. The preliminary January 1 estimate was below the final estimate 9 out of the past 10 years.

TABLE 4. FALL POTATOES: STOCKS BY TYPE AS PERCENT OF TOTAL STOCKS,
JANUARY 1, 1983, 11 MAJOR STATES

STATE	POTATO TYPES			
	REDS	WHITES	RUSSETS	TOTAL
	PERCENT			
COLO	9	5	86	100
IDAHO 1/ 2/			100	100
MAINE		77	23	100
MICH 4/				
MINN	18	47	35	100
N Y 2/ 3/		100		100
N DAK	24	60	16	100
OREG 1/ 2/			100	100
PA 2/		100		100
WASH 1/ 2/			100	100
WIS	7	25	68	100
11 STATE TOTAL:	3	23	74	100

1/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF WHITES, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.

2/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF REDS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.

3/ INCLUDES SMALL AMOUNT OF RUSSETS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.

4/ NOT PUBLISHED TO AVOID DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS.

(Continued from page 1)

Stocks in the six Central States totaled 35.2 million cwt, 6 percent greater than a year ago and 34 percent above 1981. Wisconsin stocks at 9.4 million cwt are up 21 percent; Michigan holdings at 4.9 million are up 26 percent. Minnesota potato stocks at 8.1 million are the same as last year; and North Dakota stocks of 11.0 million cwt are 4 percent lower.

The six Western States held an estimated 111 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, 1983, 6 percent more than a year ago and 14 percent more than two years ago. Idaho stocks at 59.0 million cwt are up 7 percent from last year. Potato shrinkage, dumping, and cattle feeding continue to run above normal in Idaho as farmers clear their storages of frost damaged potatoes. The January 1 survey indicated that of the potatoes still in storage in Idaho, approximately 6 percent will not be marketable due to frost problems. Potatoes harvested prior to the frost on October 8th are keeping well; those harvest after the 8th have caused some problems, with greatest dump occurring after the second frost on October 18th.

Disappearance to January 1, 1983 in the 15 major fall States totals 121 million cwt, 2 percent less than the same period a year ago. This includes 20.0 million cwt of potatoes dumped during grading, feed to livestock on potato farms, discarded without grading and lost to shrinkage (moisture loss) -- compared with 17.1 million cwt a year earlier. Disappearance for the month of December totaled 28.3 million cwt compared with 29.6 million cwt for December 1981.

Potatoes processed to January 1, 1983 in eight major processing States totaled 48.7 million cwt, 6 percent less than in the same period a year earlier. Processing during December totaled 9.8 million cwt compared with 10.1 million cwt for December 1981.

